

Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

In the Matter of

Policy and Rules Concerning the)
Interstate Interexchange Marketplace)
Implementation of Section 254(g) of the)
Communications Act of 1934, as amended)

CC Docket No. 96-61

RECEIVED

JUN 28 1999

REPLY COMMENTS OF BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE, INC.
ON FURTHER NPRM ON WIRELESS RATE INTEGRATION

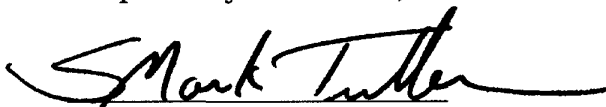
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

"Wireless is working like it should work – governed by the marketplace and not by regulation – and it is thriving. Common sense regulation by the FCC and Congress have helped foster the competitive nature of this industry. In a competitive marketplace, excessive regulation can only handcuff the invisible hand, and wireless is a case study of achieving success through market forces instead of government."

(Chairman William Kennard, two weeks ago, attached)

It is not only unlawful but just plain inconceivable for the Commission to regulate CMRS prices in the name of rate integration as it seeks to do here. Interfering with the market pricing of wireless rates would be the single most retrogressive act of the Commission in the history of the wireless industry.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Mark Tuller
Vice President-Legal and External
Affairs, Secretary and General Counsel
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Dated: June 28, 1999



NEWS

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This is an unofficial promulgation of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See *WCI v. FCC*, 816 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1987).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 10, 1999

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PRESS STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN WILLIAM E. KENNARD ON "WIRELESS DAY"

Today we highlight one of the great success stories of competition – the wireless telecommunications industry, where choice is up and prices are down.

Wireless phone users are riding the wave of a tremendous buyers' market brought about by thriving competition in the wireless telecom field. Consumers have more choices than ever at prices that have declined as much as 40 percent in the last three years. It's amazing that an industry that didn't exist a decade ago now provides 134,758 jobs, according to an industry survey.

Wireless is working like it should work – governed by the marketplace and not by regulation – and it is thriving. Common sense regulation by the FCC and Congress have helped foster the competitive nature of this industry. In a competitive marketplace, excessive regulation can only handcuff the invisible hand, and wireless is a case study of achieving success through market forces instead of government.

All of the wireless items adopted today illustrate the steps the FCC is taking to help secure the wireless industry's role as a leader in communications technology. We want to ensure that the competitive wireless industry finds its rightful place at the forefront of communications in the next millennium.

CMRS Competition Report: The signs of growing competition are visible nearly everywhere. For example, the mobile telephone industry is well on its way towards completing its transformation from a duopoly to a competitive marketplace. Where there were once only two providers, there are now communities with five, six, and even seven carriers trying to sell their services. As a result, prices are falling, making mobile telephone services available to more people as well, and bringing those services ever closer to being a competitive alternative to wireline telephone services. In the 12 months ending December 1998, the mobile telephony sector generated over \$32 billion in revenues, increased subscribership from 55 million to 68 million, and increased national penetration from 20 to 25 percent.

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